

145. (Twice Amended) A liquid acquisition/distribution structure comprising:

(1) a top layer that is permeable to a liquid,

(2) a distribution layer comprising a capillary system of an essentially parallel bundle of synthetic fibers, the bundle having an average inter-fiber capillary width of from 25 to 400 microns, providing capillary forces on the liquid when the liquid is in contact with said distribution layer tending to transport the liquid parallel to said top layer, and

(3) a resistance layer having a resistance layer top surface and a resistance layer bottom surface, said resistance layer provides resistance to transmission of the liquid from said resistance layer top surface to said resistance layer bottom surface.

164. (Twice Amended) A liquid acquisition/distribution structure comprising:

(1) a top layer that is permeable to a liquid and having a region intended for insult by a liquid;

(2) a resistance layer having a resistance layer top surface and a resistance layer bottom surface, said resistance layer provides resistance to transmission of said liquid from said resistance layer top surface to said resistance layer bottom surface; and

(3) a distribution layer between the top layer and said resistance layer comprising a capillary system of an essentially parallel bundle of synthetic fibers, the bundle having an average inter-fiber capillary width of from 25 to 400 microns, providing capillary forces on the liquid when the liquid is in contact with said distribution layer, said capillary forces tending to transport the liquid substantially parallel to said top surface;

(4) wherein said resistance layer comprises

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- (a) a first region directly beneath said region intended for insult by said liquid,
- (b) a second region that is separated from said first region,
- (c) a third region that separates said first region from said second region, and
- (d) said first and second regions have a lower resistance to transmission of said liquid from said resistance layer top surface to said resistance layer bottom surface than said third region.